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Control: 12396
Rec'd: July 29, 1954 8:05 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL 29 1954

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 130, July 28, 7 p.m.

ds tel 7/30/54
ARA:WFinn:cmd; AR:EPJamison; ARA:JMWhitten; MD:JWW

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714.001/7-2854

Guatemalan practice with respect to granting safe conducts accords to date with Department's suggestion that safe conducts for less harmful individuals in asylum be deferred until Guatemala obtains agreement surrender of Communists and criminals (DEPTEL 98). Wife of ex-Foreign Minister Toriello and two Mexican women are only asylees known to have been granted safe conducts to date.

However, Under Secretary Foreign Relations, Julio Asensio, said today that Guatemala could not withstand much longer the tremendous pressure being brought to bear by all Latin American countries holding asylees. They insist on strict compliance with Habana and Montevideo conventions on asylum and are threatening hail Guatemala before OAS if it does not comply. Guatemalan officials are seriously worried about this possibility since they consider their case weak.

Faced with this situation, Guatemalan authorities are adopting a policy of releasing all children under twelve either to leave country or remain; releasing women who have not been personally active in politics and allowing foreign women to leave country. Foreign Minister Salazar made public announcement to this effect today and gave assurances right of asylum would be respected.

As regards Communist asylees, Asensio stated Foreign Office had persuaded Salvadoran Ambassador ask Guatemala to make arrangements for transporting Communists in his Embassy to points behind iron curtain. It is planned that he make this suggestion in writing, and Guatemalan Government will immediately respond offering safe conducts on this condition. As inducement, Guatemalans are offering pay transportation expenses and Asensio said US assistance in arranging transportation would undoubtedly be needed.

Wherever possible, criminal charges will be preferred and forwarded to government granting asylum with request for extradition. It is not anticipated there will be many such cases.

In order to bring Caracas resolution against facilitating travel of Communists into play, Guatemalans plan have Junta President Castillo Armas announce formally to diplomatic corps July 30 that

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that Guatemala withdraws its negative vote and accepts resolution. Thus Guatemala will have additional excuse for delaying safe conducts for Communists.

I believe Salvadoran Ambassador's suggestion that Communist asylees be transported behind iron curtain may establish useful precedent and possibly induce other countries take similar action. Department will be kept informed of developments along this line as well as of opportunities for our mission in other American republics assist. In addition, Department may wish discreetly ascertain views leading Latin Americans re possibility of having Guatemala ask for meeting of COAS to advise it how to comply with conflicting obligations of conventions on asylum and Caracas anti-Communist resolution. Such meeting would clearly not be helpful unless majority OAS would agree that obligations preventing travel Communist agents supersede those on asylum.

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